



Billing Code 3410-DM-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. FSIS-2012-0003]

Codex Alimentarius Commission: Meeting of the Codex
Committee on General Principles

AGENCY: Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety,
USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is sponsoring a public meeting on March 28, 2012. The objective of the public meeting is to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft United States (U.S.) positions that will be discussed at the 27th session of the Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP) of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex), which will be held in Paris, France, April 2-6, 2012. The Under Secretary for Food Safety recognizes the importance of providing interested parties the opportunity to obtain background information on the 27th session of the CCGP and to address items on the agenda.

DATES: The public meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 28, 2012, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held at the Jamie L. Whitten Building, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Room 107-A, Washington, DC 20250.

Documents related to the 27th session of CCGP will be accessible via the World Wide Web at the following address:
<http://www.codexalimentarius.org/>.

Karen Stuck, U.S. Delegate to the 27th session of the CCGP, invites U.S. interested parties to submit their comments electronically to the following e-mail address:
USCODEX@fsis.usda.gov.

CALL-IN NUMBER:

If you wish to participate in the public meeting for the 27th session of the CCGP by conference call, please use the call-in number and participant code listed below:

Call-in Number: 1(888) 858-2144

Participant code: 6208658

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE 27th SESSION OF THE CCGP
CONTACT: Karen Stuck, U.S. Codex Office, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Room 4861, Washington, DC 20250,
telephone: (202) 205-7760, fax: (202) 720-3157
e-mail: USCODEX@fsis.usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE PUBLIC MEETING CONTACT:

Barbara McNiff, U.S. Codex Office, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Room 4861, Washington, DC 20250. Telephone: +1(202) 205-7760, fax: +1(202) 720-3157, e-mail: USCODEX@fsis.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Codex was established in 1963 by two United Nations organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Health Organization. Through adoption of food standards, codes of practice, and other guidelines developed by its committees, and by promoting their adoption and implementation by governments, Codex seeks to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade.

The CCGP is responsible for dealing with procedural and general matters referred to it by Codex, for proposing amendments to the Codex Procedural Manual, and for reviewing and endorsing procedural provisions and texts forwarded by Codex committees for inclusion in the Procedural Manual.

The Committee is hosted by France.

Issues to be Discussed at the Public Meeting

The following items on the agenda for the 27th session of the CCGP will be discussed during the public meeting:

- Matters Referred to the CCGP
- Issues Surrounding Codex Standards Held at Step 8
- Mechanism for Examining Economic Impact Statements
- Review of the Risk Analysis Policies of Codex Committees
- Definition of the Term "Hazard"
- Proposed Amendment to the Terms of Reference of the Committee
- Development of Joint Codex-World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) Standards
- Distribution of Codex Documents and Length and Content of Meeting Reports

Each issue listed will be fully described in documents distributed, or to be distributed, by the Secretariat prior to the meeting. Members of the public may access or request copies of these documents (see ADDRESSES).

Public Meeting

At the March 28, 2012, public meeting, draft U.S. positions on the agenda items will be described and discussed, and attendees will have the opportunity to pose

questions and offer comments. Written comments may be offered at the meeting or sent to the U.S. Delegate for the 27th session of the CCGP, Karen Stuck (see ADDRESSES).

Written comments should state that they relate to activities of the 27th session of the CCGP.

Additional Public Notification

FSIS will announce this notice online through the FSIS Web page located at

http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations_&_policies/Federal_Register_Notices/index.asp.

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customized access to selected food safety news and information. This service is available at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News & Events/Email Subscription/>.

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Done at Washington, DC on: February 6, 2012

Karen Stuck,

U.S. Manager for Codex Alimentarius.

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